2014
Annual Report

Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council

eac

Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council
11 Kent Street, 4th Floor
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Honourable Robert Mitchell
Minister of Communities, Land, and Environment
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Mitchell:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act*, I have the honor of presenting the Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Council.

This report covers the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Davies
Chair

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Introduction

The Environmental Advisory Council is a group of individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to advise the Minister responsible for the environment on environmental matters.

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Subsection 4(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act* sets out the Council's responsibilities. The Act states that

The Council shall

(a) serve as an advisory board to the Minister Responsible for the Environment; and
(b) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations.

The mandate for the Environmental Advisory Council as prescribed by the Act is somewhat general in order to be all encompassing. To better define the Environmental Advisory Council's mandate, the following terms of reference were approved by the Minister:

1. To advise the Minister Responsible for the Environment on matters referred to it by the Minister or the public under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
2. To report annually to the Minister on submissions received, research conducted, investigations undertaken and recommendations made under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
3. To advise the Minister on environmental matters related to activities in relation to the Provincial Conservation Strategy.
4. To make recommendations to the Minister on conservation or environmental improvement awards.
5. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting opportunities for environmental improvement or protection programs or projects.
6. To recommend to the Minister public education projects or programs.
7. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting support for community, private and non-government programs and projects.
8. To advise the Minister on legislative proposals as they relate to environmental protection and enhancement.
9. To advise the Minister on such matters as the Minister may direct.

10. To perform such functions as may be provided by regulations under clause 4(2)(b) of the Act.

Administrative support for the Council is provided by staff of the Department of Environment, Labour and Justice.

General Comments

Council held eight regular meetings during 2014, together with a number of special meetings of various subcommittees of Council regarding the Environmental Awards, and Science Fair.

Meeting Outlines

A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2014, and the discussion topics addressed, are presented in the table below.

Meeting	***Guests/Speakers***	***Issues Discussed***
Jan. 15, 2014	Glenda MacKinnon-Peters Tony Sturz	*One-Stop Shopping for Building Development* *Conservation Strategy*
Mar. 19, 2014	Garth Simmons	*The New Provincial Building Code Act*
Apr. 15, 2014	Cindy Crane Tony Sturz	*Nutrient Loading Targets for PEI Estuaries – Conservation Strategy Update*
May 13, 2014	Tony Sturz	*Update - PEI Legislative Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Forestry - Considering the moratorium on high capacity (deep) water wells for agriculture irrigation. Potential for new legislation (Water Act)*
June 17, 2014	Tony Sturz	*Water Act and Water Act White Paper*
Sept. 16, 2014	Jim Young	*Update - Water Act White Paper*
Oct. 14, 2014	Cindy Crane	*Sea lettuce growth in Island waters*
Nov. 13, 2014	Sean Ledgerwood Jim Young	*Pesticides in Water* *Regulatory Amendments Affecting Municipalities*

Other Matters

During the year, Council members discussed a variety of environmental issues. These are listed below:

- The impact of nitrate contamination in Island rivers and estuaries on the shellfish industry
- Infilling of ditches along roads and highways in urban settings, and the affect this practice may have on reducing groundwater recharge.
- PEI Environment Division hosting Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Conference (September 2014).
- Crop Life overseeing the Barclay Brook rehabilitation project and management plan.
- Chemical cosmetic pesticides use in Prince Edward Island.
- Pesticide levels in drinking water supplied to schools and nursing homes.

2014 Science Fair Winners

The Environmental Advisory Council takes an active interest in the annual Provincial Science Fair sponsored by the University of Prince Edward Island. Involvement has included helping judge and award prizes to participants whose projects demonstrate a high level of understanding or innovative approaches to environmental issues. In the **Dr. Leon Loucks Environmental Awards** were presented to entries in the junior, intermediate and senior categories with prize money of $80, $50 and $30 awarded to first, second and third place winners respectively. The 2014 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZES

First Junior
(G4–RE–03) Fossil Fuel Energy
Student: Geoffrey Paton
School: West Kent Elementary

Second Junior
(G6–RE–09) Solar Energy
Student: Caelan Campbell
School: Central Queens Elementary

Third Junior
(G6–RE–06) Green with Envy
Student: Ahnais Young
School: Eliot River Elementary

First Intermediate
(J–RE–03) Groundwater
Student: Meaghan Bulger
School: Queen Charlotte Intermediate

Second Intermediate
(J–RE–01) Biodegradable Milk Plastic
Students: SoumyaDeep Chowdhury, Dawson Webster
School: Queen Charlotte Intermediate

Third Intermediate
(I–RE–01) Plowing: Spring or Fall/Le Labourage: Printemps ou Automne
Student: Hannah Hardy
School: Summerside Intermediate

PEI Environmental Award Winners

Since its inception in 1987, the Environmental Advisory Council has recognized citizens for their special commitment to the environment through the PEI Environmental Awards.

In June 2014, Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards were presented to the following:

School Award

Summerside Intermediate School

Summerside Intermediate School has been working closely with its local watershed group for the past seven years, introducing students to environmental stewardship, biodiversity and the importance of the environment. The school has been involved in monitoring water quality and macro-invertebrate biodiversity within five stream sides in the Bedeque Bay watershed area.

This past year, teachers and students planted 600 native trees, shrubs and plants within stream side riparian zones. They also worked with staff and residents of Summerset Manor to plant 350 trees and shrubs as part of a memorial garden and walkway.

Organization Award

Winter River - Tracadie Bay Watershed Association with special recognition of John Hughes

For many years, the Winter River Tracadie Bay Watershed Association has advocated for the north shore environment and educated students and residents on how to manage the watershed. John Hughes was a founding member of the association and provided strong leadership over the years. An avid outdoorsman, he opened cross-country trails, hosted snowshoeing classes, offered canoe lessons and encouraged biking. Under his leadership, the association was the recipient of the 2013 National Excellence in Water Stewardship Award for Prince Edward Island. Canadian Geographic has included the work of the association on its website as a teaching tool.

Individual Award

Dr. Kelly Lockhart and Myles Lord

Dr. Kelly Lockhart and Myles Lord have been involved in conservation activities for more than 20 years. They have been very active in the Tryon River Watershed Co-op and the South Shore Watershed Association. They have promoted public awareness of healthy streams and buffer zones, assisted students with stream restoration activities, and contributed to the costs of dredging Lord's Pond.

Myles Lord has volunteered many days in streams with his students removing excessive wood debris, finding innovative ways to remove sediment and to improve the Tryon River navigational channel.

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2014 Membership

Richard Davies, Chair
Belle River

Dean Stewart, Vice-Chair
Summerside

Paul Gallant
Souris

Bertha Campbell
Kensington

Darlene Moore
Northam

Irene Dawson
Cornwall

Nick Webb
O'Leary

Wayne Gallant
Summerside

Lokesh Garg
Charlottetown

Art Smith
Stratford

Title Page: Milk thistle *(Silybum marianum)*
Print Credit: Flora von Deutschland Österreich und der Schweiz (1885)
Otto Wilhelm Thomé http://caliban.mpiz-koeln.mpg.de/thome/index.html